# Stakeholder Interview Summary

## Introduction

The project team has contacted several individuals and organizations that have firsthand local knowledge and have a vested interest in improving mobility in the study area. Interviews were conducted with those that responded to our request for an interview which included several school administrators from the local elementary schools, area residents, State government employees and City staff with knowledge of mobility issues in the study area. The following is a summary of the interviews that were conducted.

## Stakeholders

- *Mr. Michael Guerra* – Principal, St. Matthews Catholic School.
- *Mr. Armando Cuellar* - Transportation Supervisor, Phoenix Elem. School District.
- *Mr. Mike Sanders*- Arizona Department of Transportation.
- *Ms. Tiffany Halperin* - Area Resident.
- *Ms. Shannon Dubasik* – Executive Director Capitol Mall Association (email correspondence)
- *Mr. Joe Perez* - City of Phoenix Bicycle Coordinator.
- *Mr. Don Cross* - City of Phoenix School Coordinator.

## Comments from Stakeholders

**Michael Guerra,** Principal, St. Matthews Catholic School.

Mr. Guerra said that St. Matthews is a K-8 School with about 220 students. Almost all the students are dropped off by their parents. Two students walk to school from the neighborhood east of 19th Avenue and a few others take the city bus. Some students go to an after-school program at the Boys and Girls Club which provides for their transportation.

Mr. Guerra said that their primary concerns regarding mobility are:

1. The intersection at 19th Avenue and Van Buren is dangerous with the proximity of the railroad tracks, bus stops too close to the street and the busy Jack in the Box at the southeast corner.

2. The afternoon traffic on Van Buren Street is very congested; vehicles come to a standstill, which seems to have gotten worse in recent years.

**Armando Cuellar,** Transportation Supervisor, Phoenix Elementary School District.

Mr. Cuellar said that Capitol Elementary is a K-8 School in the Phoenix Elementary School District with about 600 students. The school serves students who live in the area between Madison Street and McDowell Road from 23rd Avenue and 15th Avenue. Students who live between 19th Avenue and 15th Avenue, north of Van Buren Street, are expected to walk to school. The District provides bus service for other students who live south of Van Buren Street and/or west of 19th Avenue.

Mr. Cuellar is not aware of any problems with students walking or riding bikes to school.

**Mike Sanders** – ADOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator for State Highway System

Mr. Sanders said that he rides his bike to work and feels that the city has done a good job of providing bike lanes that State employees can use to bike to work. He specifically stated that the 15th Avenue bike lanes were a good improvement. He also said that many State workers take light rail and either bike or walk to work from Downtown.

Mr. Sanders' primary concerns regarding mobility are:

1. He thinks the 16th Avenue and Madison Street intersection is confusing. He uses Madison Street to bike between the State offices and the City and County offices downtown and finds it to be an excellent route except for the 16th Avenue intersection. He doesn't think bike lanes are necessary on Madison Street but thinks a designated bike route might make sense.
2. He thinks the public's money would be best spent on pedestrian improvements along the busy streets, particularly 19th Avenue due to the lack of sidewalks.
3. He said that it can be challenging for pedestrians to cross Jefferson Street and Washington Street due to the speed of the vehicles; particularly on Jefferson east of 16th Avenue where on-street parking interferes with pedestrian visibility.

**Tiffany Halperin** – Downtown Resident

Ms. Halperin lives and works in the Evans Churchill district in Downtown Phoenix and finds that the east-west streets are too busy for bicycling. She said that Roosevelt Street has bike lanes, but she feels the street is too busy to comfortably ride her bike. She said that McKinley Street provides a continuous corridor between 11th Avenue and 20th Street and has limited vehicular traffic. She thinks that the public's money would be well spent on improving McKinley to make it a pleasant pedestrian/bicycle route including shade trees, street lights and improved sidewalks.

**Shannon Dubasik** – Executive Director Capitol Mall Association (email correspondence)

Ms. Dubasik stated that her organization's focus area is I-10 west to 7th Avenue, south of Roosevelt Street. She said that their neighborhood just had new sidewalks installed along Van Buren from 15th Avenue to 7th Avenue and the bus stops were improved. She would like to see more trees planted to shade the sidewalks.

**Joe Perez** - City of Phoenix Bicycle Coordinator.

Mr. Perez had the following recommendations:

1. Add bikeway on 17th Ave., Madison St. to Roosevelt St.
2. Add bike lanes on Roosevelt St. from 19th Ave. to 15th Ave.
3. Improve sidewalks on 19th Ave. from Harrison St. to Van Buren St.
4. Add northbound bike lane on Grand Ave. from 15th Ave to the fairgrounds at McDowell Rd.



*Existing Madison St. & 16th Ave. intersection.*

5. Add bikeway on Madison St. from 19th Ave. to 3rd Ave. Remove on-street parking on Madison between 18th Ave. and 17th Ave and Reconstruct/Re-stripe/Re-sign the Madison St. and 16th Ave. intersection; reconfigure to a standard 4-way intersection.
6. Add bike connection from Madison St. to Washington St. along 16th Ave.

**Don Cross** *- City of Phoenix School Coordinator.*

Mr. Cross had the following comments for the areas around the schools in the study area.

*Capitol Elementary School:*
1. Located at 17th Ave. and Van Buren St. and within the Phoenix School District.
2. Most students are from the local neighborhood, not many out of district students.

*St Matthew Catholic School (K-8):*
1. Located at 21st Ave. and Van Buren St.
2. Most students are dropped off by their parents. Some students walk from the neighborhood, and there are some that use the traffic signal at 21st Ave. to cross Van Buren St.